

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 513
By Jackson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. James Morris Powers, Sr. of Waverly.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. James Morris Powers, Sr. of Waverly; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Powers was an exceptional dentist who had previously served as Mayor of Waverly; a consummate professional, he worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Powers practiced dentistry in Waverly for over fifty years, earning the respect of his peers and patients alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, a native of Waverly, Dr. James Powers graduated from Tribble High School and attended Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, where he met his future wife, Helen Hill, of Franklin; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Powers later graduated from Southwestern College in Memphis and received his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree at the University of Tennessee at Memphis; and

WHEREAS, continuing Tennessee's proud tradition of volunteerism, Dr. Powers served two years in the U.S. Army Dental Corps while stationed in Germany during the Korean Conflict; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Powers demonstrated his dedication and leadership in dentistry through his membership in several associations, including the American Dental Association, Nashville Dental Association, Tennessee Dental Association, and the Academy of General Dentistry; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Powers was also a Fellow of the American College of Dentists and a Fellow of the International College of Dentists; he was named the Outstanding Alumnus of the University of Tennessee's College of Dentistry in 1998; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his many professional accomplishments, Dr. James Powers amassed a long and distinguished record of public service; he was first elected Mayor of Waverly in 1960 and served in that capacity for twenty years; in 1973 he was elected President of the Tennessee Municipal League and was selected as Tennessee's Outstanding Mayor of the Year in 1975; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Powers was a candidate for Governor of Tennessee in 1974; appointed to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission by Gov. Ned McWherter in 1990, he was elected its Chairman in 1995, and he also served on the Tennessee Arts Commission from 1999 to 2003; and

WHEREAS, devoted to giving back to his community, Dr. Powers was a 32nd Degree Mason, a Shriner, a Rotarian, and a member of the Lion's Club; in 1989, he was named a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Powers was an active and devout member of Waverly Cumberland Presbyterian Church, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Powers was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Powers enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of fifty-five years, Helen Hill Powers, and was the proud father of Jarene Ballengee and husband Byron; Dr. James M. Powers, Jr. and wife Laura; Dr. Laraine Powers; and Lisa Powers; and

WHEREAS, he is also survived by his adoring grandchildren: Jeffrey Schweer and wife Verna, John Schweer, Gigi and Hollan Powers; great grandchild Nevaeh Schweer; and sisters, Bertha Tomlinson, Frances Grannis, and Dot Hiett; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, Reverend Mastin C. and Althea Powers; brothers, Leslie, Allen, Carl, William, and Walter Powers; and sister, Louise McDonald; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Morris Powers, Sr. leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional dentist, public servant, and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dr. James Morris Powers, Sr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character as a professional and a civic leader and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Dr. James Morris Powers, Sr.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.